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To: Interested media

ICYMI: Here is a rapid-fire update on what happened over the past week in Turkish economic, trade and business news.

- After 8 years of negotiations, [Turkey will join Euroclear](#), one of Europe's largest securities depositories. This will allow investors to settle trades in Turkey's government bonds and attract more international capital.
- The Trade Ministry has launched a new [free-trade zone focused on the IT industry](#), which will provide tax exemptions, rent breaks, qualified employment support and other economic incentives to international investors.
- The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the JPMorgan Chase Foundation will [provide grants to support small Turkish businesses](#), especially women-led enterprises.
- The total volume of investment funds in Turkey has [exceeded a record \\$22 billion](#), and the number of people and entities investing in them has reached 3.1 million. The portfolio of investment funds increased 25 percent to \$22.5 billion in the first five months of this year.
- A new initiative aiming to foster cooperation between Turkish lawmakers and members of the European Parliament, called the [EU-Turkey Friendship Group](#), was launched this week. The members of the initiative will cooperate on important political developments in EU-Turkey relations, and organize cultural, intellectual and political debates.

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